

Even Start Family Literacy Program

Program Name and DE Consultant	Even Start Family Literacy Program Tom Rendon, Even Start State Coordinator
Children/Families served (Birth to 5-year-olds)	In 2005-06 Even Start served 244 low-income families in 9 programs across Iowa; including 318 children and 257 adults.
Target Audience	Even Start provides a comprehensive family literacy program to low-income families seeking to increase their education and parenting skills. Children from birth to age 8 years are eligible for services with the full participation of their families.
Program purpose	Even Start programs are a partnership between local school districts and non-profit agencies. They seek to increase literacy through adult education, parenting skills, family literacy development, and early childhood education.
Program description	<p>Even Start Family Literacy programs serve low-income families and their children from birth to age 8 years old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 components to Even Start: Parenting Education, Family and Child Interactive Literacy Time, Adult Education and Early Childhood Education. • 50% of the families are English Language Learners. • 50% of the families are native English speakers.
Funding source/allocation FFY	<p>2006-2007 Program Year Federal Funding \$445,400.</p> <p>All programs have a minimum of 10% local match each year that increases each subsequent year of the grant.</p>
Identifiable indicators of quality	Even Start has Indicators of Quality for Programs, Children, Adults and Families. Programs must make sufficient progress in each component based upon their documented yearly reports for continuation funding.
Results (Outcomes achieved)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 228 of 244 (93%) of the families live below the federal poverty level. • Adult education is offered an average of 94 hours a month. • Early Childhood education is offered an average of 66 hours for infants; and 93 hours to preschool children. • 100% of the children receive a screening. • Parenting education is offered an average of 27 hours a month in Even Start programs. • 61% of the Even Start staff holds a 4-year college degree. • An additional 18% of the paraprofessional staff holds an AA.
DE role and collaborative efforts	Oversee coordination and implementation of the competitive grants to local entities.

Iowa Even Start Programs
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